

## A MESSAGE FROM MINNIE WILLIAMS

In a Telegram from Providence She Gives Encouragement to Holmes—Attorney Capps Thinks the Message Genuine.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 20.—W. A. Shoemaker, counsel for H. H. Holmes, to-day received a message purporting to come from Minnie R. Williams, dated Providence, R. I., which stated that the sender was alive and well. This is one of the women whom Holmes is accused of having murdered in the Chicago "castle."

Mr. Shoemaker admitted that he had received such a dispatch. "We have contended all along," said he, "that Minnie Williams was alive. We will have no difficulty in producing her at the proper time."

"Did not the telegram come as a surprise to you?" was asked.

"Not exactly. Holmes has always said that Minnie Williams was alive, and I am pretty confident that he is telling the truth."

"What action will you take in the matter?"

"I cannot say what I will do at this time. I think it was rather inconsistent on the part of Minnie Williams to telegraph here."

"Do you think the telegram is genuine?"

"It may or may not be. My opinion, however, is that it was sent by Minnie Williams. Holmes told me this afternoon that he supposes the girl has just arrived from London, and perhaps was induced to send the message by some of his friends. It is more than likely that Minnie Williams sent the message from Providence, and then hurriedly left the town. She has always had a particular fondness for Boston, and has many friends in that city. She may have been on her way there when she telegraphed to me."

The telegram, which was sent as a night message, reads:

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Aug. 19.—W. A. Shoemaker, attorney Philadelphia. Report that I was murdered absurd. Am alive and well.  
MINNIE R. WILLIAMS.

When the message was shown to Holmes he at once exhibited his feelings. "I knew my story that I did not kill the girl would be confirmed," said he, as he brushed the tears from his eyes; "I am sorry, however, that she has made herself so public by telegraphing. She might as well have written."

Then Holmes reiterated the statement that he has made so often that the last time he saw Minnie Williams was when he left her at Toronto with the Pietzel children. The prisoner has every confidence that Minnie Williams is the best friend he has, and feels assured that the telegram that was received here to-day was sent by her for the purpose of showing loyalty to him.

The genuineness of the telegram will be investigated by Mr. Shoemaker, and if it is found that Minnie Williams sent it, it will be a valuable link in the chain of evidence for the defense.

W. A. Capps the Fort Worth attorney who was here in the interest of the Texas people who are trying to prosecute Holmes, was on his way to take a train for New-York when seen by a reporter. When told that Minnie Williams had been reported alive he said:

"I never thought that she was dead. The Fort Worth people think that she is alive, but it seems mighty hard to locate her. She may be somewhere near Boston. She has many friends there. I would not be surprised if the telegram you say has been received from her is correct." Then the conversation was abruptly terminated by Mr. Capps hurrying to catch the train.

Assistant District Attorney Barlow would not say whether he thought the telegram was genuine or false. He admitted, however, that he would not be astonished if Minnie Williams appeared on the scene at any time.